

IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES



*A Capital Campaign for*  
**GOOD SHEPHERD  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

# Message from Our Pastor

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

“For God, all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26).

These words of Scripture invite us to transcend the horizons of our usual ways of thinking so that we might Imagine the Possibilities of what we might accomplish with the help of God.

Our Good Shepherd Parish community is the spiritual home of more than 3,600 families who are grateful to be a part of this joyful and hospitable family of faith. Consolated, strengthened and sustained by our Sunday and daily celebrations of the Eucharist, we grow in our knowledge and love of the Lord in our faith formation programs. The love of God we experience in our parish, we in turn share generously with others, especially those in greatest need.

In the following pages, I invite you to consider our history and how we have come to be the parish we love so dearly. I also ask you to Imagine the Possibilities of how we might be able to fulfill more robustly our mission as God’s People by participating in the campaign we are about to begin!

Sincerely and gratefully yours in the Lord,

*Thomas P. Ferguson*

Reverend Thomas P. Ferguson  
Pastor



# *Our History and Parish Family*

Since our founding in 1965, Good Shepherd Catholic Church has been a parish defined by vibrant liturgies and faith formation programs, leading to a strong commitment to service to others and a warm and welcoming faith community. In the beginning, nine hundred families formed the parish. Today, Good Shepherd serves as the spiritual home for over 3,600 families.



*Loving as Christ loves, serving as Christ serves,* Good Shepherd continues to be a beacon of faith and hope in our Mount Vernon community. We are excited about the future of our parish and to continue to share Christ's love with each other and all who wish to be part of our family of faith.



Led by Father Tom Ferguson, we celebrate our faith through the Mass and prayer, share our faith through formation programs, and put our faith into action through numerous ministries of service and advocacy.

We are a diverse family of faith, with parishioners from many cultures and nationalities. Good Shepherd has a long history of welcoming the stranger from Africa, Asia and the Pacific Islands, Central and South America and Europe. This welcoming spirit and hospitality to our sisters and brothers in Christ enhances and enriches our parish with multi-cultural celebrations, festivals, and prayer. We are blessed by the rich diversity of our parishioners united in Christ through Baptism and the Eucharist.



# *Our Vision*

As we seek to accommodate the desire for ever-expanding ministries, enhance the beauty of our liturgy, and be good stewards of the facilities we have graciously been given, our vision is to:

## *Build a Chapel*

Adjacent to our main worship space, a chapel will enable us to expand opportunities for daily Mass and Eucharistic adoration (including the potential for a daily Mass in Spanish), provide a more intimate setting for weddings, funerals, and daily Mass, and also contribute to a more energy-efficient use of our larger church space.

## *Create Additional Meeting and Classroom Space*

Good Shepherd is seeking to expand the limited space currently available for our religious education program, youth ministry, and other parish groups and organizations. Creating additional space for classes and meetings will allow us to robustly fulfill our mission of handing on and growing in faith, one that is put into action through the service and advocacy of others. Meeting space and classroom expansion will ultimately provide us more opportunities to learn and grow in our faith and proclaim the Gospel in our daily lives.

*As the congregation size has grown, so I believe the need for physical space to accommodate the ongoing daily, weekly and monthly activities has grown.*

*- GS Parishioner*

## *Improve the Safety and Security of Our Facility*

We will address several long-needed facility improvements (e.g., parking lot and outdoor lighting) that will improve the welcome we extend to our parishioners and visitors. Our parish is not just a spiritual home during Mass, but serves ministries and activities throughout the week. Security and parishioner safety are among our top priorities.



# Our Continued Growth and Need

Good Shepherd has historically worked to meet the needs of our parishioners and community by expanding facilities as needed. Over ten years ago, we completed a master plan to assess and address facility needs.

It is a blessing to have such an energetic, busy parish, so much so that our current facilities no longer accommodate the growing number of committees, ministries, organizations and activities that our parish provides. We hear a consistent plea for more classroom, program and meeting space, so we can be more effective in fulfilling our mission, serving the needs of parishioners and doing God's work. Ministries such as prayer groups, faith formation, youth ministry, and others do not have adequate space to meet. In short, we lack classrooms and meeting rooms that many of our groups require and this lack of space has limited our ability to serve the needs of parishioners and others in our community.



Today, Good Shepherd faces new opportunities and challenges. With the *Imagine the Possibilities* campaign, we hope to address our current needs:

**11,000+**

PARISHIONERS

**3,600+**

ACTIVE FAMILIES

**75+**

MINISTRIES

**10,000+**

APPROXIMATE HOURS OF  
FACILITY USE PER YEAR

- Our parish is made up of many diverse cultures and language groups with only one option for daily Mass in English...
- We need a more intimate worship space for families and friends to celebrate life and feel the presence of Christ, especially at weddings, funerals, Adoration and the rosary...
- With continued growth in our child faith formation and youth ministry programs, we need to expand capacity for classes and activities...
- For many adult meetings, the classrooms are too small, with some groups reporting the need to break up meetings across multiple classrooms...
- We need adequate space for faith formation classes and ministry meetings to ensure the protection of children and vulnerable adults...
- In an expansion, we need to prioritize accessibility for all abilities and generations, and continue to be mindful of our environmental footprint...

# Imagine the Possibilities

With the current needs of our parish and the desire to continue serving others by sharing the love of Christ, imagine the possibilities of an expanded campus...

- **Imagine the possibilities** for programs and gatherings that support the Domestic Church – the family.
- **Imagine the possibilities** for expanded opportunities to grow in wisdom and grace in our faith formation programs.
- **Imagine the possibilities** for small faith sharing groups to gather in appropriate sized spaces.
- **Imagine the possibilities** with a new chapel for greater opportunities for prayer and Adoration for all parishioners, and for a daily Mass in Spanish.
- **Imagine the possibilities** to offer families a more intimate space in a chapel for funerals and weddings.
- **Imagine the possibilities** for parish youth with a larger, dedicated space to pray, play, and serve.
- **Imagine the possibilities** of offering more opportunities for parish, diocesan and community groups to find a home and a place to meet at Good Shepherd.
- **Imagine the possibilities** of increasing service in the name of God and our Church while taking into consideration our environmental footprint.



As members of Good Shepherd Catholic Church, we are faced with a challenge, but we will overcome it together. The projects that are planned for the expansion of our parish facilities are important to each and every one of us. Through your prayer and generous sacrificial commitment, we will be able to fulfill our hopes and dreams.



# *Your Impact*

As stewards of the treasures we have received from God, we recognize it is up to us to enrich and sustain our spiritual home as a community. This campaign will seek the participation of all God's children at Good Shepherd to meet the needs of current and future generations of Catholics, and for all those the Church serves.



All members of the Good Shepherd family are invited and encouraged to make a sacrificial, five-year pledged commitment to our *Imagine the Possibilities* Capital Campaign.



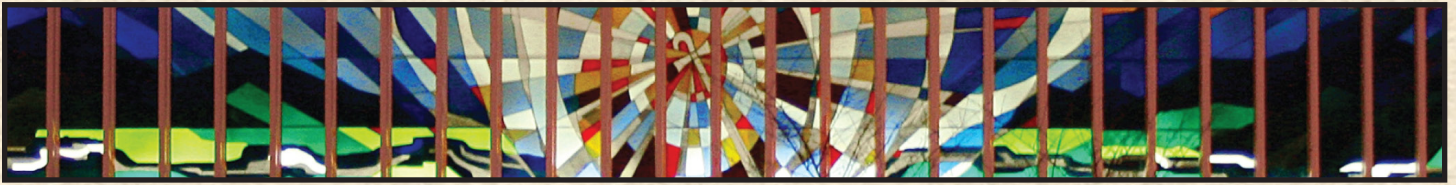
The success of this campaign rests with the generosity and sacrifice of our parishioners. Together, we will create spaces that will allow us to serve one another, expand current ministries, and provide opportunities for new forms of service as we continue to share Christ's love at Good Shepherd and beyond.



Please prayerfully consider your contribution to this campaign and its impact on our ability to build the Kingdom of God in our parish and our world. Join us as we set out on a faith-filled journey to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, proclaiming our faith while providing for a strong and vibrant future for our parish.



**IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES...**  
*as our personal gifts are combined in faith!*  
Goal: \$5 Million



## A Prayer for Our Campaign

O God, You spoke in dreams to Joseph of Israel, and You made him a steward of the material gifts You provided to sustain Your people.

You spoke in dreams to Joseph of Nazareth,  
and You invited him to make a home for Your Son Jesus.

Today You encourage us to dream, to Imagine the Possibilities  
of how we as stewards of the gifts You have given us  
may build up the spiritual home where so many encounter Jesus today.

Increase in our hearts a spirit of generosity,  
so every member of our parish will contribute to the effort  
to Imagine the Possibilities for prayer, learning and service  
in new and expanded spaces  
where we will give You glory and serve our neighbor  
now and forever. Amen.

(Father Tom Ferguson, 2020)



visit [gs-cc.org/future](https://gs-cc.org/future)